

MSD of NEW DURHAM TOWNSHIP

School Board Public Hearing

Minutes of August 11, 2021

Executive Session: None

Those in Attendance:

Board Members

Wayne Hodge
Karen Jedrysek
Vicki Hannon
Mark Parkman

Staff

Dr. Sandra Wood Superintendent

Absent

Lynn Wilson

1) Call to Order

Mr. Parkman, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call

4) Community Input

None

5) Superintendent's Report

Dr. Wood gave a Covid-19 update. Our county metric is in the yellow category with a score of 1.5. School Covid cases will be updated starting next week on the Corporation's website. We are in good shape locally and plan on starting the school year on level green, according to our return to learn plan.

Dr. Wood gave an update on the construction project. Roof was scheduled to be completed this week, however due to the amount of rain we had, it will be pushed backed. There were a few minor leaks in the hallways this time. No classrooms were effected. Anticipating mid next week, before they are fully completed with the east side of the building. Following that they will be working on the gutters and finishing touches. Should be another few weeks before the roof project is fully completed. Administration renovation is mostly complete, just a few final touches. The administration is fully moved in. Dr. Wood invited the board members to visit the Administration offices after the meeting. A few administration

renovation updates: Mrs. Schnick now has a door handle and lock for her office, sink is in with a temporary faucet, our new faucet is on back order. Biggest thing missing at this point is the administration shades, which should be in on the 24th. Hopefully by the end of the month this project should be wrapped up and we can sign off. Parking lot striping was completed on Tuesday. As of right now we are on a standstill with the Chiller, hopefully it will be installed around Fall Break. Cafeteria roof materials are back ordered. The material timeline keeps being pushed further back. At this time we are informed it will not be until November, unsure of temperatures they may start the project in the spring. With the project being pushed back to 2022, we are fine with our bond.

Dr. Wood gave an update on the cell phone policy for the Secondary Level. The policy wasn't included in the student handbook because we had a change in our administration and wanted to have that conversation with our new assistant principal. When we got started working on all of this, we determined not to put it in our handbook, rather we emphasized it with our teachers with an overall expectation. This allows the teacher to establish their own perimeters and their own method of implication on what we are trying to enforce. Mrs. Schnick met with the teachers and their department heads. We have a lot of teachers that use the numbered slots system already. The number slots look like a shoe hanging bag. Student cell phones fit right into the slot. Teachers will use this system for attendance and make it a streamline process. Those students, who do not have a cell phone, will have an index card to place in their number slot for attendance. Teachers agree that this is better than the students having their phones in their locker in case of an event of an emergency. The students will have their cell phones in the classroom for security but not at their actual seat. Phones cannot be used during class unless it's for educational purposes.

I Learn scores from last year are in. Dr. Wood made a graph with the percentage passing, state average, and percentage not passing. Mostly ELA scores are at or above state average all around. Last year being effected with the pandemic. It's hard to determine what the growth should have been last year. But we know looking at this state wide, learning was thrown off. Everyone across the state was dealing with the same thing. Dr. Wood mentioned the math chart is a little more concerning. 4 out of 6 of our grade levels are below average. You can see this year's 7th grade cohort last year's 6th grade cohort were below average in both math and ELA. This is our biggest concern. We will implement strategic planning in those areas. Our goal for this year is student growth. We can meet the students where they are currently and help them grow. We will integrate both math and ELA into all of our curriculum across the board. Emphasize in all subject areas critical thinking, problem solving, concepts and checking for comprehension. We will work with our teachers, specifically helping with integration of these lessons into other subject areas. Our goal this year is to work with our teachers specifically, helping them develop ways to integrate those learnings. We built in 4 eLearning days this year for professional development. Really drill down on our NWEA scores at the beginning of the year to really be able to see what each student needs. We will ask the principals to come back in September or October, to share

with the board **what specifically** they are working on with the teachers. And what students will be doing in the **different** subject areas. This way the board is fully aware of what we are doing to help our students.

Mrs. Jedrysek: asked a question inquiring about ideas or opportunities for those individuals that need assistance, or for those individuals that want assistance after school? Dr. Wood said Yes. We are starting the After School Assistance Program (ASAP) in September like we have in the past. This will be working in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club as well.

Mrs. Jedrysek: asked a question regarding if the parents of these students will be notified? Mr. Ton responded with information will be sent out to parents.

Mrs. Jedrysek would like to follow up with the ASAP and Boys and Girls club to make it a little bit more formalized.

Mr. Parkman: asked a question can we pinpoint why our scores were lower than the state average? Mr. Ton responded that those results are with a skipped year. Last year that 7th grade cohort didn't take a standardized test, but if you look back when they were in 5th grade as a whole they all tested below average as well.

Dr. Wood also mentioned the HAWKS mentoring program for 7th grade students. With this specific cohort not only are their scores low, but the transition from Elementary to Middle School is where we often see students' scores drop.

Mrs. Hannon would like to see something integrated for the current 6th grade and 7th grade.

Mr. Parkman would like to see an updated plan added to next month meeting specifically for this 7th grade cohort group.

6) Solar Update

Dr. Wood went over the NIPSCO report; consumption was high again for this month. Dr. Wood is not too worried about the high consumption at this time. We had 2 – 3 weeks in July where work was being done on the structure for the chiller. We had many dehumidifiers running from Servpro during this month because of the flood from the roof, that happened July 7th. And those dehumidifiers ran for about a week. At the end of July, we brought in more dehumidifiers for another moisture issue. With all of that running, that is probably what caused the high consumption this month. Dr. Wood went over a document from the solar reporting software. Our inverter number 26 was down this month. They were out today to fix it. We should hear back in the next couple of days, that all of our invertors are back to working. This has been a long process for number 26. We did have an outage the weekend

of July 4th. The system seems to shut down sometimes and no one has been able to give us a good answer on to why that has been happening. We are keeping our thumb on it and making sure it is up and running. Some of these days you will see are a little bit lower like on July 16th when the system went down for a couple of hours. Mr. Parkman: asked a question: If Korellis is turning money into their insurance do you think they can help a little bit with the NIPSCO usage? Dr. Wood mentioned she will bring it up to Korellis and have it ready for next meeting. Once construction is done if the consumption hasn't gone down at that point we will need to contact to see what is driving the consumption to that level.

- 7) Approval of June 9, 2021 School Board Minutes**
- Approval of June 9, 2021 Work Session Minutes**
- Approval of June 14, 2021 Special Session Minutes**
- Approval of June 21, 2021 Special Session Minutes**
- Approval of July 22, 2021 School Board Minutes**

*Stephanie Fenters: ask a question about the school board minutes regarding change in the teacher's retirement benefit? Dr. Wood replied that there was not a change to the teacher's retirement benefit.

Mr. Parkman made a motion to approve the School Board Minutes as posted and Mr. Hodge seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8) Personnel

A. Resignations

- **Kim Klein – Middle School Math Teacher**
- **Roxanne Witherspoon – Art Maternity leave position/Substitute.**
- **Jennifer Bechinske – Substitute Nurse**
- **Alexis Bunge – Kindergarten Teacher**
- **Richard Pinkepank – Substitute Teacher**
- **Kathleen Green – Elementary Teacher**

B. Recommendations

- **Jennifer Massengill – Middle School Math Teacher**
- **Kim Klein – Art Maternity Leave Position/ Substitute**
- **Gabrielle Ponder – Cafeteria**
- **Abigail Wedow – Elementary Teacher /Kindergarten**
- **Kim James – Instructional Assistant Elementary**
- **Gina Walpole – Instructional Assistant Elementary**
- **Amber Pickett – Instructional Assistant Elementary**
- **Ben Mallon – HS Varsity Boys Soccer Coach**

- **Samuel Mallon – HS Varsity Assistant Boys Soccer Coach**
- **Emily Wagner – HS Interim Department Head English Department**
- **Amanda Huhnke – Food Service Substitute**
- **Michelle Lancaster – HS Math Department Head**
- **Virginia Braggs – Elementary Teacher**

C. Volunteers

None

Mrs. Hannon made a motion to approval Personnel Resignations and Recommendations and Mrs. Jedrysek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9) Professional Leave Requests

None

10) Donations

None

Dr. Wood wanted to state for the record that the Women's Auxiliary Club from the Fire Department brought in a large donation of school supplies.

*No Action Needed

11) Approval of MOU with South Central Community School Corporation

Mrs. Jedrysek made a motion to approve the of MOU with South Central Community School Community School Corporation and Mr. Parkman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

12) Approval of Contract with the Boys and Girls Club of LaPorte County

Mrs. Jedrysek made a motion to approve the Contract with the Boys and Girls Club of LaPorte County and Mrs. Hannon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

13) Financials

Mr. Parkman made a motion to approve the Financials and Mr. Hodge seconded the motion. Motion carried.

14) Correspondence

There are two Correspondence

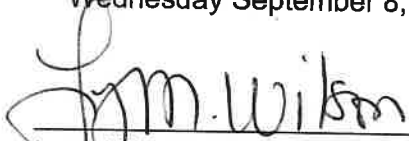
1. Jane Bachman
2. Westville Middle / High School

15) Adjournment

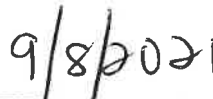
Mr. Parkman adjourned the meeting.

Next Regular Meeting Date:

Wednesday September 8, 2021 - 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center



Lynn Wilson, Secretary



Date